Prices of Chillies and Turmeric

376. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the arrival of the new crops in the market the prices of chillies has crashed by nearly 75 per cent seriously affecting the farmers in the Southern States in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular;

(b) whether a similar trend has been noticed in case of turmeric;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to offer remunerative prices to the farmers of these two crops; and

(d) what reasons prevent Government from maintaining buffer stocks of these two items to stabilise prices and help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The prices of chillies reached unprecedently high levels in December, 1988 and started declining thereafter with the arrival of new crop. The ruling prices are still much higher than those prevailing in the corresponding period of last year.

(b) No, Sir. On the contrary the prices of turmeric have displayed a firm trend after September, 1988.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Unlike oilseeds', chillies and turmeric are minor crops of localised nature.

Per Hectare Production of Foodgrains

377. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the estimated figures, separately, for Kharif and Rabi for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 and the area under cultivation and per hectare yield for foodgrains in the country; and

(b) the figures of per hectare productivity of foodgrains in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) All-India estimates of area, production and yield of foodgrains for the year 1987-88 are given below:—

Year		Kharif	Rabi	Total
1987-88.	A	74.45	44.26	118.71
	P	73.89	64·52	138.41
	Y	993	1458	1166

A—Area (Million hectares)
P—Production (Million tonnes)
Y—Yield (Kgs per hectare)

The final estimates of area and production for the year 1988-89 are yet to be received from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the production of foodgrains this year is expected to be in the range of 95 to 96 million tonnes during Kharif season and 71.5 to 74.0 million tonnes during Rabi season.